**Chapter 15. Online Images & Visual Literacy**

Chapter 15 discusses the challenges and opportunities for teachers and students with regards to online photo sharing and the means of sharing these pictures.

With over 75% of people having cell phones with video and picture sharing capabilities, it is easier than ever for the average person to snap a picture and add it to any social networking page for viewing. For example, I can take a picture and add it directly to my Facebook page or take a video and place it directly on YouTube in just seconds. Sites like Flickr, Facebook, and YouTube are just a few of the more popular sites being used today for pictures and video uploading and sharing.

Today’s students are not strangers to Google Images and they use this site often to find pictures to support their schoolwork. We must monitor the usage and provide our students with the proper expectations in our project outlines.

This past year I had a major problem with students taking images and not sourcing where they found images. I believe there is much education that needs to be administered before proper use can begin with image using. The chapter also had a section that went over being an ethical digital citizen, a reinforcement of my own personal experiences. This would be a wonderful area for professional development with all teachers in a school.

Visual Literacy is not just reading and writing on paper or online. It goes beyond that and includes the incorporation of data and images along with words online. We now have to look at advertisements, dismiss them or consider them and continue on without breaking our concentration. It seams that Visual Literacy is the ability to multitask online while completing the single task of reading or writing.

The information is here and we need to embrace it and teach proper navigation and decoding to our students to ensure their growth.

Question: With all of the video and pictures being uploaded everyday, do you think the Internet will ever reach its full capacity or an overload of images?

Question: Google Images offers pictures for anything imaginable. How can we allow our students to use this site when there are so much inappropriate images on it as well? Can they be filtered or do we just trust in our student’s judgment and our classroom monitoring skills?